

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

7/3/88

WHH

File POL 27

R

D 6029

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

\*\*\*\*\* ARGENTINA S20

DE RUEBPA

DE RUEBPA 5032/1 195 1528

DE RUEBPA 5032/1

DE RUEBPA 5032/1

DE RUEBPA 5032/1

TO RUEBPA/STATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1952

INFO RUEBPA/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY 4394

THECLO/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY 5339

DE RUEBPA/MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 595

BT

LIMA 5032

JUL 3 1:52

	ACTIVE	TO	ACTIVE
ADM		ADM	
ASST		ASST	
CHIEF		CHIEF	
CLERK		CLERK	
COORD		COORD	
DEPT		DEPT	
EXEC		EXEC	
FILE		FILE	
GEN		GEN	
INSP		INSP	
INTL		INTL	
LAB		LAB	
LEGAL		LEGAL	
PLN		PLN	
REC		REC	
SEC		SEC	
TRAIN		TRAIN	
UNIT		UNIT	
WFO		WFO	

S.O. 1952: GDS 7/2/88 (ENLAUDMAN, HARRY W.) OF-W

TAGS: RINT, CHUN, AP, FL, PF

SUBJECT: MONTONEROS: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTEDLY CLAIMS  
3 KILLED IN PERU; FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS FURTHER.

REF: LIMA 5032

1. SUMMARY. THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING MONTONEROS  
HAS TAKEN AN EVEN HIGHER TURN WITH REPORTS FROM AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL SOURCES THAT TWO OR THREE OF THESE  
PEOPLE DIED UNDER INTERROGATION WHILE STILL IN PERU. THE  
FOREIGN MINISTER HAS DECLARED PUBLICLY THAT HIS MINISTRY  
HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF  
THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR'S COMMUNIQUE. THE DISAPPEARANCES  
SEEMED TO COMPLICATE PERU'S RELATIONS WITH BOLIVIA AND  
ARGENTINA, IN THE LATTER CASE PARTICULARLY IF VIDELA GOES  
THROUGH WITH HIS PLAN TO ATTEND PERLAUDER'S INAUGURATION.  
PERU'S FOREIGN MINISTER WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO  
SHED RESPONSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 1 EDITION OF LEFTIST DAILY "EL DIARIO DE  
LADRON" FRONT-PAGED AFRITEN DATED LONDON WHICH  
REPORTED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CHARGE THAT SOME OF  
THE ARGENTINE "MONTONEROS" DETAINED IN PERU (SEE  
PARA 1 OF LIMA 5032) WERE TORTURED TO DEATH. WIRE  
SERVICES HEADLINE CLAIMED THAT 2 WERE "ASSASSINATED"  
IN QUITO, WHILE 3 OTHERS WERE SECRETLY TRANSPORTED TO  
ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, IN THE BODY OF THE ARTICLE, 3  
REPORTED CHARGE BEING GIANOTTI DE MOLENO, FEDERICO  
ERIAN ALONSO, AND JULIA INES SANTOS DE AGUIAR WERE  
SAID TO HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF TORTURE. ACCORDING  
TO THE REPORT, ALL 5 WERE ALLEGEDLY TORTURED AT A  
PERUVIAN ARMY DETENTION CENTER NEAR LIMA.

84F116  
3/52

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

82 3. (U) JULY 1 EDITION OF OFFICIAL GOB GAZETTE "EL PERUANO" PUBLISHED ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS ON THE GROWING CONTROVERSY BY FOREIGN MINISTER GARCIA. GARCIA ASSERTED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD "NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT HAPPENED" IN THE CASE OF THE DEPARTED ARGENTINES. POINTING OUT THAT THE IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT IS A DEPENDENCY OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND NOT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, GARCIA DECLARED THAT HE WAS FIRST AWARE OF THE INCIDENT WHEN HE SAW THE COMMUNIQUE FROM THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE GAVE THE BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR IN PERU A DOCUMENT JUNE 20, REPORTEDLY SIGNED BY A BOLIVIAN INSPECTOR OF IMMIGRATION, WHICH CERTIFIED THE DELIVERY OF 3 ARGENTINES TO BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 17. REGARDING A POSSIBLE CHANGE IN PRESIDENT GUTIERREZ'S PLANS TO ATTEND THE BELLAUNDE INAUGURATION BECAUSE OF THIS INCIDENT (SEFTEL), GARCIA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NOTHING TO CONTRADICT THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH INDICATED THAT SHE WILL ATTEND.

4. (U) AGUSTIN MAYA, A LEADER OF THE MARXIST UDP, TOLD "MARKA" THAT THE BOLIVIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR HAD ASSERTED TO A VISITING DELEGATION OF PERUVIAN LEFTISTS THAT THE "RECEIPT" FOR THE THREE ARGENTINES TO WHICH GARCIA REFERRED HAD BEEN OBTAINED FROM THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES "BY FORCE". MAYA ALSO CALLED FOR THE RESIGNATIONS OF PRIME MINISTER RICHTER AND GARCIA, THE FIRST BECAUSE HE AUTHORIZED THE OPERATION AGAINST THE MONTONEROS AND THE SECOND BECAUSE OF HIS "INCOMPETENCE." ACCORDING TO "MARKA", THE LEFT WILL HOLD A MANIFESTATION JULY 10 AT WHICH, INTER ALIA, ARGENTINE PRESIDENT VIDELA AND HIS PROJECTED VISIT HERE WILL BE "REPUDIATED".

5. [REDACTED] GUILHERME DA CUNHA, LIMA REP CORRESPONDENT TOLD BRITISH HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER JULY 2 THAT UNHCR HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED THAT ONE OF THE ARGENTINE "MONTONEROS" (NOMED GASTON GIANOTTI DE MOLENO) WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF MOTHERS OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO, AND THAT SHE HAD TESTIFIED BEFORE THE UNHCR IN GENEVA WITHIN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. HE INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF THIS, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES IS VERY INTERESTED IN THE CASE AND WILL PROBABLY CONTACT PRESIDENT MORALES PEREZ DIRECTLY VERY SOON. (DA CUNHA STATED THAT PERUVIAN "FORNIA" STILL HAS NOT RESPONDED TO HIS DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE). DA CUNHA SAID THAT HE AND LOCAL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WERE COMPLETELY SURPRISED BY THE AFR ITEM IN "EL DIARIO DE MARKA", INDICATING THAT AI LONDON HAD NOT CLEARED THE STATEMENT WITH ITS LIMA BRANCH. (AI LIMA REP LAURA CALLER IBERICO TOLD HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER JULY 1 THAT SHE HAD CALLED LONDON FOR A CLARIFICATION, BUT AS OF JULY 2 SHE HAD NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM AI NOS.)

6. [REDACTED] DA CUNHA'S PERUVIAN SOURCES (NOT IDENTIFIED TO US) TOLD HIM THAT FEDERICO FRIAS ALBERCA WAS DETAINED IN ARGENTINA BY GOA SECURITY FORCES AND BROUGHT TO PERU TO IDENTIFY THE ARGENTINES DETAINED IN LIMA (THE 3 NAMED IN GOB COMMUNIQUE AND AN ADDITIONAL UNNAMED ARGENTINE). ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, ALL 5

UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/11/01 BY 60322

UNCLASSIFIED

WERE TAKEN TO PLAYA HONDALE PERUVIAN ARMY RECREATION CENTER NEAR LIMA, WHERE THEY WERE INTERROGATED AND TORTURED IN THE PRESENCE OF ARGENTINE SECURITY OFFICERS AS WELL AS PERUVIAN SECURITY OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, DA CUNHA DID NOT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT WHO ACTUALLY ADMINISTERED THE TORTURE, BUT HE INDICATED THAT THE ENTIRE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN GREAT DETAIL IN A LEFTIST PAPER IN LIMA THIS WEEK. AS A RESULT OF THE ALLEGED TORTURE, DA CUNHA WAS TOLD 2 ARGENTINES DIED (JULIA SANTOS DE ACERAL AND FREDRICO FRIAS ALBERGA).

7. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS OBLIGED TO MAKE HIS STATEMENTS AS A RESULT OF HAVING BEEN CORNERED AT THE FUNERAL OF THE HISTORIAN JORGE BASADRE. GARCIA SAID THAT HE STILL KNOWS NOTHING MORE ABOUT THE CASE THAN WHAT HAS BEEN RELEASED PUBLICLY. HE DESCRIBED THE CASE AS A "VERY SERIOUS MATTER" -- WHICH IT CLEARLY IS. MANY OF THE DETAILS ARE STILL OBSCURE, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DOUBT THAT THE PERUVIAN ARMY, ACTING IN CONCERT WITH ITS ARGENTINE COUNTERPART, RESORTED TO THE KINDS OF ILLEGAL REPRESSIVE MEASURES MOST FAMILIAR IN THE SOUTHERN CONE THAN USA. (INTERESTINGLY, AND PROBABLY ACCURATELY, "MARKA" CONTINUES TO ABSOLVE PRESIDENT MORALES BERNARDEZ OF ANY GUILT.) WHY THE NOTORIOUSLY CAUTIOUS RICHTER AND HIS INTELLIGENCE PEOPLE REACTED SO UNCHARACTERISTICALLY IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE IS NOT APPARENT. AT LEAST A FEW SUSPECTED MONTONEROS HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN PERU FROM TIME TO TIME OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. (THE ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 100 IN LIMA NOW.) IN ANY EVENT, RICHTER IS LIKELY TO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WORK HIS WAY OUT OF THIS PROBLEM. THAT HE COULD HAVE CAUGHT HIMSELF UP IN THIS FASHION IS REGRETTABLE GIVEN THE CENTRAL AND CONSTITUTIVE ROLE HE PLAYED IN RESTORING DEMOCRACY TO PERU.

END AMERICAN

BT

5030